

After the three main issues were resolved, Fernald focused on implementing the site's cleanup plans and managing nuclear material and waste. Generally, waste generated during production is contained in drums, containers, waste pits and concrete silos on site. It includes solid and liquid low-level radioactive material, hazardous waste and mixed waste that is both hazardous and radioactive. Waste generated during cleanup operations includes demolition debris and contaminated soil. Nuclear material and waste management involves characterizing, treating, packaging, transporting and disposing of such product and waste inventories.

The strategy is to first screen all waste for disposal in the OSDF, then for disposal at Envirocare, a permitted commercial disposal facility located near Clive, Utah, then finally for disposal at the Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site. This three-tiered approach ensures cost-effectiveness in the disposition process. The cleanup strategy also includes options for recycling and beneficial reuse of materials when feasible.

In 2002, Fernald shipped the last truckload of uranium product off site, eliminating a radiological source and reducing landlord and surveillance costs associated with storing and managing the product. Thirty-one million net pounds of product remained in storage after the 1989 shutdown of uranium processing operations, and Fernald has transferred over 80 percent to other customers for potential reuse. The site will use available options to disposition the remaining product as waste. Fernald is scheduled to complete all legacy waste disposition activities in 2004.

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TOP: Dale Jackson, DOE-Oakridge Office of Nuclear Fuel Security and Uranium Technology director, and Don Paine, Fluor Fernald Nuclear Materials Disposition director, listen as Fluor Fernald Executive Project Director Jamie Jameson thanks Nuclear Materials Disposition team members for their outstanding contribution to the Fernald cleanup (7368-D0503).

BOTTOM: An operator prepares to repackage nuclear material before it is shipped to Portsmouth, Ohio (7536-D0150).



For more information

Visit the Public Environmental Information Center on site, open Tuesdays and Thursdays
Contact Gary Stegner, DOE-Fernald Public Affairs, (513)648-3153, gary.stegner@fernald.gov.
View the Fernald website at <http://www.fernald.gov>